

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING**

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Update

REQUEST: 1) Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and adopt the related California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC); 2) Approve Plan Amendment No. 2009-00006-(5) and Zone Change No. 2009-00009-(5), as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission

LOCATON: Unincorporated Santa Clarita Valley

STAFF CONTACT: Mitch Glaser at (213) 974-6476

RPC HEARING DATES: October 5, 2009; November 23, 2009; February 24, 2010; September 29, 2010; December 8, 2010; March 23, 2011; May 25, 2011; and September 28, 2011

RPC RECOMMENDATION: 1) Conduct public hearing to consider the FEIR, Plan Amendment No. 2009-00006-(5), and Zone Change No. 2009-00009-(5); 2) Certify the FEIR and adopt the related CEQA Findings and SOC; 3) Approve Plan Amendment No. 2009-00006-(5) and Zone Change No. 2009-00009-(5)

MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Commissioners Louie, Modugno, Pedersen, and Valadez

MEMBERS VOTING NAY: Commisioner Helsley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEMBERS ABSTATINING: None

KEY ISSUES: The Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (Area Plan) is a component of the Countywide General Plan that guides development and conservation within the unincorporated communities of the Santa Clarita Valley.

The current Area Plan was adopted by the Board on February 16, 1984. A comprehensive update was adopted by the Board on December 8, 1990. The current Area Plan has a “horizon year” of 2010, so it is necessary to update the Area Plan with revised demographic information, maps, goals, objectives, and policies that reflect current conditions, projected growth, and desired outcomes.

In 2000, the County and the City of Santa Clarita (City) initiated “One Valley One Vision” (OVOV), an effort to update the Area Plan and the City’s General Plan with compatible goals, objectives, and policies that would provide cohesive guidance for development and conservation within the entire Santa Clarita Valley, which both jurisdictions share.

MAJOR POINTS FOR:

The Area Plan Update replaces an outdated planning document and reflects current conditions, projected growth, and desired outcomes. As the culmination of the collaborative OVOV effort, the Area Plan Update ensures that the County’s goals, objectives, and policies for development and conservation are compatible with the City’s.

Preparation of the Area Plan Update included an extensive outreach program that engaged a wide range of Santa Clarita Valley stakeholders. In addition, the Area Plan was thoroughly reviewed and considered by the RPC in a series of public hearings over the course of nearly two years.

MAJOR POINTS AGAINST:

Build-out of the land uses allowed in the Area Plan Update could result in significant environmental impacts. The FEIR concluded that the Area Plan Update, even with the recommended mitigation measures, will result in potentially significant environmental impacts with regard to air quality; global climate change; agricultural resources; biological resources; water service (outside the Castaic Lake Water Agency service area); utilities and infrastructure (solid waste); and noise.

Several property owners have expressed opposition to proposed changes to the land use designation and/or zoning designation of their properties.